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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Soviet Ski Production/Production for the Armed Forces
at the Pärnu Ski Factory

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- "The Soviet skiers who have arrived in Sweden to participate in the forthcoming world championship in skiing [mid-Feb 54] have with them Norwegian and Finnish skis and also skis made at the Dynamo Ski Factory in Tallinn, Estonia.
- "At present Dynamo of Tallinn is the greatest manufacturer of sporting skis in the USSR. Since 1951 the skis manufactured have been of the glued variety. They are in great demand all over the USSR and a number of Soviet records have been set up on them.
- "Another Estonian enterprise manufacturing skis is the Pärnu Ski Factory. Until 1953 it manufactured both skis and furniture. In 1953 it was switched over to ski production only. The entire output of the Pärnu Ski Factory is reserved for the Soviet Army.
- "Most of the former Estonian ski specialists have been transferred to the Pärnu factory. The plan provided for the production of 13,000-14,000 pairs of skis per month there in 1953. Actually, the factory did not produce any more than 6000 pairs in any month of 1953. Even in 1952 the ski production plan was never fulfilled by more than 44 per cent. The management is helpless, as this lag is due to the poor quality or complete unsuitability of the wood supplied.
- "In addition to falling short of the plan the Pärnu Ski Factory produces a great proportion of skis of low quality. In Nov 53, for example, the military control commission receiving the skis rejected about 1000 pairs as completely unusable. This threatened the plan fulfillment more than ever. An attempt was made to sell the rejected skis to civilian trade organizations. A shipment of 2200 pairs of skis was sent to Roskulttorg in Moscow. However, the skis were of such poor quality that Roskulttorg sent them back and the factory had to write off a net loss of 30,000 rubles - the production of a pair of skis is roughly 14 rubles.

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6. "Beside bad wood the factory also has to contend with poor quality parts manufactured for it by other enterprises. The Tallinn Plywood and Furniture Factory, contracted to supply the rings to the ski poles, never supplies the regulation rings. The Pärnu Cooperative Kiir systematically manufactures unsuitable handles and iron tips.
7. "The Pärnu Ski Factory is closely connected with the Kirov Ski Factory, which also works for the armed forces. The Kirov factory manufactures only glued skis, and Pärnu is to start the same procedure: in 1954 thirty per cent of its output will be glued skis. Instructors arrived from Kirov in Dec 53.
8. "The manager of the Pärnu Ski Factory is an Estonian (fnu) Kesamaa. The chief engineer is a Soviet (fnu) Korol, a man badly versed in his profession with an education of only four years of elementary school."

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